FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ALFONSIN, BIGNONE MEET TO DISCUSS TRANSITION

Meeting Announced

PY302313 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2040 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Nov (NA) -- The meeting to be held by General Reynaldo Bignone and Raul Alfonsin will take place at 2200 tonight at the presidential residence in Olivos. The official announcement was made by designate presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez. Lopez said that during the meeting Alfonsin will propose to Bignone the "approval of the future law of ministerial organization, in compliance with the Constitution." He also pointed out that they will discuss some issues regarding the transference of power.

No Statement Issued

PY010317 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0310 GMT 1 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Nov (TELAM) -- At 2348 President-Elect Raul Alfonsin left the Olivos presidential residence where he had met for 98 minutes with current chief executive, General Reynaldo Benito Bignone. Alfonsin, who had entered through the door on Villalte Street, left by door No 9, thus avoiding the journalists who were waiting for him to come out.

BIGNONE PRESIDES OVER LAST CABINET MEETING

PY301745 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1520 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 30 Nov (TELAM) -- Argentine President Reynaldo Bignone today said that he was deeply satisfied and delighted that this would be the last meeting of the national cabinet because this means that the objective has been fulfilled: the institutionalization of the country.

Speaking to the ministers and presidential secretaries who attended the 41st cabinet meeting of his administration, Bignone said that this last cabinet meeting means that the mission and the objectives have virtually been fulfilled. The president also said that he was feeling a mixture of happiness, satisfaction, and sadness because this would be the last meeting of a group of persons who, although they had not known each other at the beginning, have become friends. According to presidential spokesman Eduardo Maschwitz's report in the Government House press room, each minister delivered a brief report, after Bignone, on what has been achieved in his respective area of responsibility.

FOREIGN LEADERS ATTENDING INAUGURATION ANNOUNCED

PY010213 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1845 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Nov (NA) -- It was officially announced today that the U.S. vice president and a member of the Soviet Presidium are among the list of high-ranking international personalities who will attend Raul Alfonsin's inauguration on 10 December. The press office of the Radical Party, located in the Panamericano Hotel, this morning issued to the media a long list of international authorities who have confirmed their plans to attend Alfonsin's inauguration ceremony.

The list includes U.S. Vice President George Bush, Soviet Presidium Deputy Chairman A. S. Barkauskas, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi. The following presidents have also confirmed their attendance: Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez (Costa Rica); Fernando Belaunde Terry (Peru); Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea (Ecuador); and Ricardo de la Espriella (Panama).

Prime Ministers Pierre Mauroy (France), and Mario Soares (Portugal); OAS secretary general Alejandro Orfila; Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers; and Commander Daniel Ortega, Nicaraguan chief of state and coordinator of the government junta will also be present.

The names of FRG Vice Chancellor Hans-Dietrich Genscher; Monsignor Carlos Furno, apostolic nuncio to Brazil who will represent the Vatican; and General Oscar Mejia Victores, Guatemalan chief of state, are listed among the most important personalities.

OFFICERS ACCUSED IN RATTENBACH REPORT ARRAIGNED

PY302358 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1915 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 29 Nov (NA) -- General Mario Menendez, retired; General Garcia, retired; and Vice Admiral Leopoldo Suarez del Cerro, retired; who are charged with violations of the Military Penal Code during the South Atlantic war, were arraigned today before the Armed Forces Supreme Council to hear the charges leveled against them in the Rattenbach Report.

Two other officers who have been mentioned in the report were also arraigned, but the Council secretary, Colonel Gonzales Ramirez, refused to reveal their identities. The Council secretary explained that the accused were not questioned by the Council either yesterday or today, and noted that the Council has no jurisdiction to arraign former Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez who is charged in the Rattenbach Report with diplomatic errors which precipitated the Argentine defeat.

DRAFT AGREEMENT ON BEAGLE CHANNEL DRAWN UP

PY301314 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1109 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Nov (NA) -- A draft agreement, whose contents are reportedly to have been conveyed to Foreign Minister-designate Dante Caputo by Argentine representative Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo, has reportedly been drawn up during the latest round of talks between the Argentine and Chilean delegations to the Vatican.

According to reliable sources, Chile would agree to the annulment of the so-called "zone of common and coordinated activities," which should not be mistaken for the "Sea of Peace." In turn, Argentina would promise to grant Chile concessions for oil prospecting and exploitation in the area that would remain under exclusive Argentine jurisdiction.

The sources said that the most important aspects of the agreement were conveyed by General Etcheverry Boneo to Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari and on Monday afternoon to Foreign Minister-designate Dante Caputo. Here are some of the main points of the proposal to be considered by the two governments:

1. Chile would agree to the annulment of the "zone of common and coordinated activities."

2. Argentina would desist from its "nonsovereign" presence in Nueva Island (air traffic control tower) and in the Evout and Deceit Islands (beacons on both of them).

3. Argentina would grant Chile concessions for out oil prospecting and exploitation in the area that would remain under its exclusive jurisdiction.

4. The concessions, quotas and places for fishing activities in the above area would reportedly be discussed in the future.

5. Chile would grant facilities for the navigation of Argentine flag between the Beagle Channel and the Strait of Magellan. However, these ships would have to take Chilean pilots on board.

6. Chile would also grant facilities for the navigation of Argentine ships to and from the Antarctic with their own pilots.

7. In the Atlantic, the limit of territorial waters would be restricted to 12 miles as established in the papal proposal. However, this limit could eventually be expanded.

8. Within the framework of bilateral relations, Chilean territorial waters would extend for only 3 miles from the coast as established in the 1881 treaty. This means that Argentina would be free to navigate and fly over the territories outside Chile's 3-mile limit and third countries would be free to do so outside the 12-mile limit.

The sources said that the draft agreement does not include a proposal on the dispute over the mouth of the Strait of Magellan. The sources, who said that this issue will be discussed in the future, emphasized its importance due to the almost (?certain) existence of important oil fields.

In more general terms, the sources indicated that a solution of the Beagle channel dispute with Chile would give the Argentine constitutional government a firmer, easier position from which to carry out an active regional policy on the continent. The sources added that this would also make it possible to restrict the high expenditures to acquire and to replace military weapons and equipment.

CASTRO MADERO REPORTS 'WITHDRAWAL' FROM CNEA

FY301520 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2241 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Nov (NA) -- Vice Admiral Carlos Castro Madero, chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], this afternoon formally reported his withdrawal from that post. He will be temporarily replaced by chemist Renato Radichela, one of the CNEA's current directors. Castro Madero explained that he is resigning because he considers himself "a man confirmed and designated by Reynaldo Bignone."

WORK ON SCHLAGINTWEIT URANIUM DEPOSIT APPROVED

FY010144 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1350 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Nov (TELAM) -- The national executive branch, through decree No 3,075, has approved the uranium exploitation project drawn up by the Eduardo Sanchez Granel Engineering, Industrial, Commercial, Financial, and Real Estate Corporation working under contract for the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA].

Article No 1 of the decree, published today in the official gazette, points out that the uranium exploitation project drawn up by the Eduardo Sanchez Granel Engineering, Industrial, Commercial, Financial, and Real Estate Corporation working under contract for the CNEA is approved in order to grant the additional benefits provided for in chapter 4 of Law 22,095. The project refers to the exploitation of the so-called Schlagintweit deposit located in Gigantes, Punilla Department, Cordoba Province, as well as the construction and operation of worker accommodations.

EDITORIAL VIEWS POSSIBILITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

FY231641 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Nov 83 p 10

[Editorial: "Going Nuclear"]

[Text] The success of the country's scientists in mastering the uranium enrichment process is an impressive achievement and many people are quite naturally very proud of it. This natural and legitimate pride, however, must be balanced against the considerable unease the news that Argentina has now joined the handful of countries able to perform this particular feat has inspired both here and abroad. It is generally appreciated that while an ability to enrich uranium can have peaceful applications, it is also a step on the way to the production of nuclear weapons, and last week's announcement means that, should the political decision be made, Argentina could have a nuclear weapon in its armory within a relatively short time. The head of the National Atomic Energy Commission insists, of course, that nothing could be further from his or his fellow military officers' minds than building up a nuclear bomb stockpile, and that the entire programme is exclusively peaceful in intent. But statements like this are invariably made by official spokesmen everywhere when they are asked why they are spending so much money on nuclear research and are in consequence most unconvincing. The fact that Argentina's nuclear programme is a military-run operation will not, needless to say, help dispel fears that its main purpose is military too.

The costly nuclear programme is not, of course, simply a highminded exercise in pure research, and its chief was careful to say that the "breakthrough" was technological and not scientific, as the theory and practice of enriching uranium have been widely known for many years. Like all programmes of this kind there will be some non-commercial benefits to be derived from it, and the experience accumulated by the people involved will no doubt be very valuable. But the main justification can only be economic: If the nuclear programme eventually leads to a useful reduction in energy costs that could not be achieved in any other ways -- if, in other words, it ends up by paying for itself -- then it will have proved worthwhile. But if the very large sums invested in it could have been used more profitably elsewhere and cheaper energy could be obtained from other sources, then it will inevitably be considered little more than a splendid white elephant.

If the men behind the nuclear programme think this latest advance will do much to enhance the nation's prestige around the world they will probably be disappointed. Despite the great intellectual and industrial achievements that have contributed to nuclear development in the advanced countries, the industry has lost its former glamour because of the grave dangers inherent in it. Thus not only are nuclear weapons considered sinister, but so too is the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes by much public opinion in the West. This being the case, the news that Argentina can now make its own nuclear weapons should its leaders choose will probably do more harm than good to the nation's "image." Another danger, needless to say, is that the country's achievement will inspire a surreptitious arms race in Latin America as a whole in an effort to catch up. The leaders of neighbouring nations have, of course, denied the possibility of this, but it would be strange indeed if the Argentine announcement did not provoke some very serious rethinking among them. The mastery of the uranium enrichment process, then, has its drawbacks as well as its advantages and will provide Congress with ample material for the serious debate about the nuclear programme that has so far not taken place but is obviously urgent.

MINISTER PROPOSES RESIGNATIONS COALITION

PY301755 Paris AFP in Spanish 1015 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] La Paz, 30 Nov (AFP) -- Planning Minister Roberto Jordan Pando has virtually triggered a cabinet crisis by stating that the ministerial cabinet should resign to give freedom to President Hernan Siles Zuazo to form a new government of national coalition.

Jordan Pando launched the idea during the questioning of ministers at the Senate due to the corrective economic measures adopted by the government on Thursday. The proposal for a new government based on a national coalition is being prepared by congressional blocs that support the democratic regime.

Politician's Reaction

PY302015 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The personal views expressed by Planning Minister Roberto Jordan Pando noting the need for a national coalition due to the difficult economic and social situation have caused concern among the various sectors of the public.

In statements made to the press yesterday, the minister said that the ministers should resign from their specific duties so that President Hernan Siles Zuazo can freely decide on this political alternative, which is considered to be of national interest.

In this regard the Bolivian Labor Federation released the following communique through its authorized spokesman Juan Lechin Oquendo:

[Begin recording] [Lechin] This is an excuse for incompetence. The government is asking the workers for a social truce after implementing economic measures that are starving them. However, the government has not asked private businessmen, particularly bankers and importers, to reduce their profits. The government has given outrageous benefits to these sectors. What kind of social truce is the minister asking for? That the workers continue to starve and that importers and bankers continue to get richer daily. Is this the kind of social truce he is asking for?

[Question indistinct]

[Lechin] Well, the church has other humanitarian purposes. Undoubtedly the church's request is respectable. [end recording]

Benedicto Delgadillo Pardo, one of the main leaders of the Bolivan Socialist Party, said that the idea of a national coalition government made up of sectors of similar tendencies is a possible way out for the democratic regime ruling the country.

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES DOMESTIC SCENE, IMF

PM301356 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Nov 83 p 4

[Interview with Bolivian President Siles Zuazo by Nichole Bonnet in La Paz, date not given]

[Excerpt] La Paz -- Question: The People's Democratic Union [UDP], of which you are chairman, has won all three presidential elections, in 1978, 1979, and 1980. It is now split.

Answer: That is not so. The UDP has lost the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, a small party with probably not more than 45,000 votes. Therefore, this is just a passing incident which does not alter our political front that is rallied around my party, the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), the country's strongest electoral force, which embraces miners, peasants, workers, and middle class sectors.

The front also comprises the Communist Party (PCB), which has major influence within the miners' unions and among intellectuals. The Christan Democratic Party [PDC] is also our ally, with its professionals, students, and part of the urban middle class. This means that the MNRI, PCB, and PDC guarantee the regime a very broad social and political base that enables us to move ahead.

Question: The government is accused of indecision and inconsistency....

Answer: What we promised yesterday we are now implementing, as far as we are able. I will only mention the unyielding defense of the public sector of the economy and the democratization of the administration.

Question: You promised a restructuring of the UDP, then joint government with the trade union federation, before turning to the independents and Christian Democrats.

Answer: With regard to joint government with the trade union federation, this option has become utopian, because certain sectors have displayed a stubbornness that would have taken us well beyond the nationalist and democratic platform of the UDP. The Bolivian Labor Federation has made suggestions that its leaders could not implement if they were in government -- for instance, a unilateral moratorium on our foreign debt.

Question: Three ministers have succeeded each other in a year, each proposing diametrically opposed approaches. At the moment, the planning and finance ministers are adopting conflicting stances with regard to negotiations with the IMF.

Answer: Tactical readjustments with regard to monetary and financial policy are the norm throughout the world. As far as the IMF is concerned, please note that it will not dictate our conduct. The accords will not violate our sovereignty.

VICE PRESIDENT CITED ON POLITICAL CRISIS

PM3001539 Paris LE MONDE in French 29 Nov 83 p 5

[Nicole Bonnet dispatch: "Vice President Paz Zamora Demands Siles Zuazo's Dismissal"]

[Excerpts] La Paz -- "Radio Illimani, from the heart of Latin America, gives you its news headlines: Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora denounces the government's 'incompetence'... In parliament, the opposition questions four ministers... Opposed to the economic measures, the Bolivian Labor Federation declares itself in a state of emergency; peasants are blocking the roads... Three bomb attacks last night... Rumors of a putsch are intensifying..."

Radio Illimani has been broadcasting since 10 October 1982 -- the date of the civilians' return to power. But the state of grace is over, and the 7 million Bolivians are showing their disenchantment. The miners, workers, and peasants who voted for Hernan Siles Zuazo have turned their backs on him. The same applies to the Congress, which endorsed his election.

The People's Democratic Union [UDP] -- the coalition which enabled him to win in the 1978, 1979, and 1980 elections -- is broken, and Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora has officially launched a campaign for the president's dismissal. He explained why:

"Siles Zuazo," he said, "has dug his own grave. His government was set up with the greatest popular support in our history, but he has ruined everything. It is a Kafkaesque nightmare..."

"The population struggled for 20 years against the dictatorship in order to have a program, a coalition... Not for a caudillo. But the president is an autocrat who thinks: 'Democracy, it is I.'"

"At the outset, he worked enthusiastically, but Siles refused to govern with the UDP, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], and me. That attitude forced us six ministers to resign on 20 January. Then we struggled for months to rebuild the coalition, but on 15 July the president repudiated the agreements that we had reached. Therefore, the UDP has ceased to exist as a political force, and we are in opposition."

If the Army is plotting while reiterating its promises of respect for the Constitution, the MIR is openly maneuvering to eliminate President Siles Zuazo in order, it says, to "protect the democratic process." Its leader and vice president of the Republic, Jaime Paz Zamora, explained its reasons.

"The government," he said, "has lost all credibility. Democracy is in danger, and it is our duty to defend it. At all costs, we must prevent the Army from coming and telling us: 'You have failed; now it is our turn.' The president raises the specter of armed intervention. This is blackmail to which we reply: 'Neither coup nor incompetent government. We are not going to sacrifice this country to a false alternative.'"

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE APPEALS FOR DEMOCRACY

PY301615 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2059 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Excerpt] La Paz, 29 Nov (EFE) -- The Bolivian Catholic Church made an impassioned appeal today to politicians, unionists, businessmen, and government authorities to reach a political pact and social and economic truce to save the democratic process which began in this country a little less than 14 months ago.

The Catholic bishops issued a document in which they expressed their conviction that only a strengthened and pure democracy will save Bolivia from the crisis that is affecting the country.

The Episcopal Conference of Bolivia, which enjoys great influence in this nation, states that democracy cannot be undermined by internal struggles among parties and political groups, but rather that it must be strengthened, so that it will be at the service of all Bolivians. It adds that "only a political pact and a social and economic truce will allow us to see a future with the hope that Bolivians need."

MNRI DECREES 'MOBILIZATION' AGAINST COUPS

PY291910 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] The Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI] has decreed a general mobilization of all members aimed at creating groups of resistance against the coup preparations of the reactionary right and of the extreme left.

The MNRI departmental command has stated that these reactionary groups are linked to drug traffickers in the effort to reestablish a bloody dictatorship in the country.

The document released this morning expresses support and maximum loyalty to the constitutional president of the republic, Hernan Siles Zuazo. The MNRI has also reaffirmed its firm decision to defend the supreme government and the democratic process that were recovered with blood and sacrifice by the Bolivian people. It adds that in view of the preparations for a coup made by the reactionary right and the ultraleft, including congressional questionings, blockades of roads, strikes, stoppages, terrorist attacks, and other situations which only seek to destablilize the supreme government of the nation, the MNRI expresses its indignation over all these events, and is preparing to respond to these serious seditious defiances.

The document released by the MNRI states that the national Congress, the anarcho-syndicalists, and drug traffickers are openly plotting against Bolivian democracy to allow the return of dictatorships and the violation of all rights and freedoms recovered with sacrifice and bloodshed. It is not only the government that is engaged in the constitutional process, but the people themselves as well and the democratic process is now endangered by these antinational movements.

The document recalls the complicity, in 1961, between the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] and the Nationalist Democratic Action of Hugo Banzer which have again returned to violent methods, this time in coalition with anarcho-syndicalism, the ultra left, and [word indistinct].

The document, released this morning, is signed by Epifanio Luna, Hugo Asuncion Tapia, Guillermo Mendoza, (Raimundo Rechena), Tomas Cuenta, and (Rodolfo Correro).

PLANNING MINISTER EXPLAINS ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY301338 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Planning and Coordination Minister Roberto Jordan Pando yesterday stated that the government had resorted to the IMF to face the economic crisis affecting the country. He made this statement during the questioning of several cabinet ministers at the Senate. The questioning is being carried out through an oral report requested from the cabinet on the latest economic measures, which devalued the Bolivian peso by 150 percent compared to the U.S. dollar.

Jordan Pando said that the government has resorted to the IMF because it is a member of this international financial organization, which is made up of 146 members, many of which are members of the socialist bloc. Bolivia, he said, has $82 million and a right to a standby loan. We will negotiate this loan with dignity, he said.

Jordan Pando also denounced the existence of a strong trend in congress to provoke a conflict of power. In the economic field, he said that inflation will reach 270 percent by the end of the year and that the corrective measures adopted by the government seek to stabilize the economy and to increase the purchasing power of salaries.

He added that the government is negotiating financial support to achieve this stabilization in a few weeks. This will allow us to reactivate production and to obtain a single type of exchange policy. He admitted that these are only intial, incomplete, corrective measures. We are going to demand real costs, real prices, and real salaries, he said.

The minister termed the economic situation disastrous. No company is currently working at full power, adding that no state enterprise is profitable. He said that the government cannot continue implementing the mixed salary policy, thus increasing the gap between the value of the salary and its purchasing power.

He said that the decision to adopt the corrective measures and to later achieve the stabilization of the economy was made due to patriotism, because leaving the country the way it was would have been antinational. He also said that agreements with the Bolivian Labor Confederation on the escalator clause will be respected, including the calculation of the production rate to recover the purchasing power of salaries and to reduce the fiscal deficit.

FIVE COLONELS REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFIC

PY301212 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpt] It was learned yesterday that five colonels of the Bolivian Air Force [FAB] have been submitted to a preliminary hearing to establish alleged involvement in drug trafficking. Asked about this, Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mayo confirmed the report, adding that five FAB members have been submitted to a hearing to find out whether they are involved in drug trafficking activities.

Cardenas Mayo was questioned by reporters at the end of an ordinary meeting in the Chamber of Deputies. He attended the meeting as part of a group of four ministers questioned by congress about alleged training of guerrilla groups in Cuba and the training of other irregular groups in Bolivia.

MILITARY OFFICERS' HOUSES ATTACKED IN COCHABAMBA

PY010235 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0216 GMT 1 Dec 83

[Text] Cochabamba, 30 Nov (EFE) -- One person was reported killed today during a clash between a group of civilians and military personnel in this city, 500 km southeast of La Paz. The 7th Army Division, stationed in Cochabamba, has officially reported that a group of civilians machinegunned the houses of several high-ranking military officers and fled. Later, a military patrol identified the car with the alleged group of attackers. During the shootout that followed, Julio Anaya was killed. The Bolivian police have not yet issued a communique on the incident. Meanwhile, the Cochabamba military division has reinforced the guard and vigilance in several places in Cochabamba, Bolivia's third largest city.

PROFESSOR'S STATEMENTS ON BRAZIL-UK ACCORD DENIED

PY302238 Paris AFP in Spanish 1625 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 29 Nov (AFP) -- Through a telegram addressed to Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, Brazilian Professor Candido Mendes denied having stated in Buenos Aires that his country had authorized British planes bound for the Malvinas Islands to land in Brazilian territory.

In his telegram, Mendes stated that during his visit to Buenos Aires on 25 November, "I never made any statements to the newspaper CLARIN nor did I hold a press conference." Mendes pointed out that it is not his custom to make political comments, even regarding Brazilian policy, during academic debates.

Candido Mendes, who is a brother of Monsignor Luciano Mendes de Almeida, current secretary general of the Episcopal Conference, denied having stated that such an agreement between the governments of Brazil and Great Britain had allegedly been reached during the negotiations of the Brazilian foreign debt with the Paris Club.

Last Saturday, 26 November, the Brazilian foreign minister issued an official statement denying the statements attributed to Candido Mendes. The official note pointed out that the statements were groundless.

RAF DELEGATION VISITING AERONAUTICS INDUSTRY

PY010009 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1901 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos, 30 Nov (EFE) -- Today a delegation of the British Royal Air Force [illegible] visited the Aerospace Technology Center [CTA] in Sao Jose dos Campos in the State of Sao Paulo.

The RAF delegation, comprised of eight people, is headed by Vice Air Marshal H.A. Merriman. After visiting the CTA, the British visitors will also visit the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (EMBRAER), the main Brazilian factory for commercial and military planes.

IAEA OFFICIAL BLIX VISITS, MEETS WITH PRESIDENT

PY301640 Paris AFP in Spanish 0418 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 29 Nov (AFP) — Hans Blix, the general director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), today refused to specify how far behind Brazil is in comparison to Argentina regarding the uranium enrichment process. He also refused to evaluate the dangers posed by the different degree of development in the Brazilian and Argentine nuclear programs.

The Argentine uranium production facility, which is not in a production phase, will enrich uranium by 20 percent, which is not enough to build nuclear bombs, Blix stated.

Today Blix held a meeting with President Joao Figueiredo, Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, and the leaders of the Brazilian nuclear energy sector. During his stay in Brazil he visited various nuclear installations in the country.

GABONESE FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

AB250750 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Martin Bongo has concluded his visit to Brazil and will leave Rio de Janeiro today for Libreville via New York. Yesterday, Mr Bongo held a final round of talks with his Brazilian counterpart, Ramiro Guerreiro.

The joint communique issued at the end of Minister Martin Bongo's official visit underlined the convergence of views between Libreville and Brasilia. The two sides stressed the need to step up their relations in the fields of agriculture, merchant marine, telecommunications, energy, and tourism.

NEW ARMY JOINT STAFF CHIEF TAKES OFFICE

PY010011 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Army Minister Walter Pires today presided over the inaugural ceremony of the new Army Joint Staff Chief, General Jose Magalhaes da Silveira. He replaces General Tulio Chagas Nogueira, who was appointed to the Superior Military Tribunal.

ARMS EXPORTS TO 40 COUNTRIES SURPASS $2 BILLION

PY301930 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1505 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 30 Nov (EFE) -- Brazil's earnings for arms exports this year will surpass coffee export receipts. This information was provided today by the president of IMBEL [Ordnance Industries], Jose Luis Whitaker. In declarations to the local press, Whitaker indicated that such earnings will be "well above $2 billion." He also noted that Brazil now exports more than 95 percent of its war materiel production, "because internal consumption is less than 5 percent." Whitaker also revealed that Brazilian arms manufacturers are exporting to 40 countries, and that one third of the sales are consigned to Middle East countries.

FORMER ALLENDE UN DELEGATE TO BE AD PRESIDENT

PY301705 Paris AFP in Spanish 2213 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] Santiago, 29 Nov (AFP) -- It was reported today in Santiago that, for the first time in the 10 years of the military regime, Ricardo Lagos, a socialist and an attorney, will assume the leadership of the Democratic Alliance (AD), the most important multiparty group that opposes the government of General Augusto Pinochet. Radical Party member Patricio Morales, who is the acting AD president, has informed AFP that Lagos will assume his duties in December and that he will exercise them for 1 month, since this is a rotating post.

Lagos, who was Chile's national university secretary general and the late President Salvador Allende's delegate to the 26th UN General Assembly, has noted that his appointment means that the situation in Chile is gradually returning to normal. The future AD president added that about a third of all Chileans are supporters of the left.

Lagos, who is an economist, noted that in Chile the left has popular support, that there is a labor class that has traditionally supported the left, and that these past 10 years of dictatorship have not changed the situation. Lagos noted that if the left now has more power to speak or to participate in public acts, this indicates only that the situation is being normalized.

In recent statements, Lagos has noted that the removal of Pinochet from power, which is the first point in the AD platform, is essential.

NICARAGUAN DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS SANTIAGO

PY301700 Paris AFP in Spanish 2243 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 29 Nov (AFP) -- Manuel Coronel Kautz, the Nicaraguan deputy minister of agriculture, today said in Santiago that Nicaragua wishes to maintain better diplomatic relations with Chile despite the ideological differences between the Sandinist government and the regime presided over by General Augusto Pinochet. He noted that the two countries maintain normal diplomatic relations, but that the Nicaraguan Government has closed its embassy in Santiago for economic reasons.

Coronel Kautz arrived in Santiago to attend a congress on techniques of irrigation and agriculture. Today, he held a meeting with Jaime Lagos, the director of the Chilean Foreign Ministry Relations Department, to whom he extended greetings from the Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister. Lagos said: He came to greet us and to express his government's desire to improve bilateral relations.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES UNION LEADER SEGUEL

PY301322 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] This is the limit! Rodolfo Seguel wants to accompany Lech Walesa's wife, Danuta, to the ceremony at which she will receive the Nobel Peace Price for her husband. It is well-known that the Polish labor leader was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his peaceful struggle against the Polish Marxist regime, a dictatorship that holds power solely because of the military support that it is receiving from the Soviet Union.

Walesa, a Catholic, has launched his offensive on the basis of the support of the majority of his fellow citizens and through peaceful means.

For his part, young Seguel, who is trying to accompany Walesa's wife to Oslo, is a well-known collaborator of Chilean Marxists who are precisely the enemies of Solidarity in Poland and who have sent Walesa to prison. Seguel has organized several protest marches which have resulted in dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries. Moreover, because of these protests, entire Santiago neighborhoods have been taken over by extremists and delinquents who have terrorized the population.

It is well-known that Rodolfo Seguel has projected his political image with the help of communists and socialists. Now that he is on a tour of Western Europe, young Seguel is trying to project the image of a democrat and a pacifist. This is why he is going to accompany Walesa's wife to the Nobel Prize ceremony. The Polish leader is unable to leave Poland since, if he attends the Nobel Prize ceremonies, communist authorities may not allow him to return to his country, the same communists who are Seguel's allies in Chile. If Walesa were aware of all these details, he would not entrust his wife and his 13-year-old son to a character with an obscure political background and a dubious past.

CHURCH OFFICIAL CRITICIZES BANISHING OF WORKERS

PY301358 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] (Damian Acuna), the vicar of the northern region of Santiago, has discussed in a press conference the problem of the 26 persons who were banished to the northern region of the country because they threw stones at firemen putting out a fire. The priest, who regretted the incident, gave a report on the incident from his own viewpoint. He added that these persons were unjustly arrested, and that they were only workers on their way home.

It must be noted that the director of the fire corps has issued a detailed report on the damage inflicted on the fire trucks. Asked why the church has not expressed its solidarity with the Carabineros who were injured or killed and why it is always criticizing the government's efforts to maintain public order, which is for the well-being of all citizens, the vicar said:

[Begin (Acuna) recording in progress] You know that one must always support the weak. I believe this is the most powerful reason. [end recording]

He also noted that the role of the Church is to safeguard peace and to support the weak.

FOREIGN MINISTER ADVOCATES NICARAGUAN DECISION

PA301411 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0058 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Bogota, 29 Nov (EFE) -- The Nicaraguan decision to authorize the departure of foreign military advisers from its territory is one of Contadora's concerns, and it supports the need for all foreign influence to withdraw from the Central American area. This statement was made today by Colombia Foreign Minister Rodriguez Lloreda Caicedo, who added that this reduces the factors that generates tension and provoke mistrust among the countries in the area.

"I hope this type of measure is pursued. We should thus advance toward the achievement of several objectives that the Central American countries included in the so-called Document of Objectives that was approved in September by the five states in the region," he said.

Lloreda pointed out that the technical committee comprised of the countries in the area and the Contadora Group countries (Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, and Panama) will meet beginning tomorrow in Panama to continue the search for legal instruments that allow the full implementation of these agreements.

The foreign minister also said that the foreign ministers of these countries will meet on 14 December for the purpose of solving any problems that may arise from the technical group's meeting.

ELN THREATENS TO KILL PRESIDENT'S BROTHER

PA301505 Paris AFP in Spanish 1436 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Bogota, 30 Nov (AFP) -- The Army of National Liberation (ELN) today threatened to "execute" magistrate Jaime Betancur, borther of President Belisario Betancur, on 10 December if the government does not meet its demands.

The group, which kidnapped the 53-year-old Betancur on 22 November, sent a news bulletin to the media today stating that it was adopting this stand "because we see how our demands have been left up in the air." The ELN has demanded that President Belisario Betancur's government increase the minimum urban and rural wages by 54 percent, freeze prices, release political prisoners, and demilitarize the peasant regions.

It notes that if before the date the government has not offered answers to its demands, "the blood of magistrate Betancur will not be shed in vain, because the working peoples will render tribute to him as a new symbol."

The ELN terms its demands "just" and "clear," stating that "Colombia needs big changes" and noting that "it is not dialogue but facts that will resolve the situation of poverty and neglect."

CONGRESSMAN KILLED BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS

PA301611 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Bogota -- The murder last night in Bogota of Representative Gustavo Alberto Mendieta Castelblanco has dismayed parliamentary circles, particularly in Boyaca Department.

Early this morning, police lab experts continued their (?investigations), without obtaining any clues that would help solve the crime. [Words indistinct] were riding a motorcycle, from which they shot the member of parliament three times, killing him instantly.

The murder of the Boyaca congressmen took place at approximately 1900 last night at the intersection of 101st Street and the Northern Expressway as the representative was driving home in his car, license plate number AO-7206.

Mendieta Castelblanco, who was mayor of Tunja in 1978 and later director of one of Colombia's [words indistinct], took part during the past few weeks in the second legislative commission debates on the mutual assistance agreement [words indistinct] Extradition Treaty signed by Colombia and the United States.

RIOTERS ATTEMPT TO SET MUNICIPAL BUILDING AFIRE

PA301606 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Medellin -- Storekeepers and secondary school students who have been staging a 48-hour strike attempted to set fire to the municipal building of Carmen de Viboral, [words indistinct] 22 magistrates.

Taking advantage of the absence of police surveillance, the demonstrators stoned the municipal house and other government buildings. [Words indistinct] with the intention of setting the building afire. The rioters had already set fire to the furniture and other [words indistinct]. The prompt intervention of Armed Forces units that were sent from the Rio Negro municipality prevented the destruction of the building.

The storekeepers went on strike to protest the increase in [words indistinct]. The 1,500 students of the Francisco Conde Azur Secondary School are demanding that the Education Ministry grant their school official accreditation as a condition for continuing their academic activities. The 48-hour strike in Carmen de Viboral is scheduled to end tonight at midnight.

FARC REBELS AMBUSH TROOPS IN PUERTO BERRIO

PA300332 Bogota Cadena Radical Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Medellin -- Two soldiers were killed and an NCO wounded in an ambush on a military patrol in Puerto Berrio. The action took place this afternoon in Monte Oscuro, Puerto Berrio, when troops from the Bombona Battalion were engaged in combing operations in search of a guerrilla group belonging to the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, which was detected in the area.

The identities of the two dead soldiers were not disclosed by the 14th Brigade Command, headquartered in Puerto Berrio. The brigade command sent several military patrols to seek the rebels, who fled to a mountainous area. The wounded NCO was airlifted by helicopter to the 14th Brigade infirmary, where he is receiving medical attention.

Official spokesman have disclosed that the guerrillas who attacked the military patrol are members of the 4th FARC Front, which operates in this area. A two-pronged operation to find the rebels was initiated in the Monte Oscuro area in the past few hours.

80 TERRORISTS OCCUPY TOWN, EXECUTE TWO PEASANTS

PY302308 Paris AFP in Spanish 1953 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Lima, 30 Nov (AFP) -- Today the correspondent of the Radioprograma Radio Network in Trujillo disclosed that 80 terrorists, men and women, last night occupied Andasmarca, a town approximately 500 km northeast of Lima. The subversive elements, armed with submachineguns, took over the town with no trouble since the police station has been empty since last year, when it was evacuated after an attack by a terrorist commando.

The attackers, presumably members of the Maoist Shining Path group, took the town authorities as hostages and demanded money and cattle. The source added that four peasants who refused to comply with the terrorists' demands were executed. Apparently, some houses were set on fire.

The information, which was not confirmed by official sources, goes on to point out that a large squad of policemen went after the extremists.

Andasmarca is a small town in Santiago de Chuco Province, southeast of Trujillo, capital of La Libertad Department. There have been sporadic reports on terrorist activities in this area, but it is the first time that such a large number of terrorists have been reported in the area.

MINISTER ADVOCATES DEATH PENALTY FOR TERRORISTS

PY301540 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpts] War Minister Oscar Brush Noel today stated that the Armed Forces will guarantee Peru's democracy, adding that unity is essential to overcome the economic crisis affecting the country.

Brush Noel made a statement at the Jorge Chaves Airport after returning from Belgium, where he participated in a ceremony to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the first automatic rifle sold by Belgium to Peru. During a brief chat with journalists, the war minister said that he was in favor of applying the death penalty to those who commit terrorist actions and crimes. He said that these actions have already claimed the lives of many innocent Peruvians. Brush Noel said that the death penalty should be applied to those people who commit cold-blooded murders.

NEW ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL ANNOUNCED 30 NOV

PY301439 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpt] During the inaugural ceremony of the Army Headquarters' press department, Army Commander General Carlos Briceno Zevallos urged journalists to disseminate accurate and serious information about national defense matters. During the ceremony, Briceno announced that his successor will be General Julian Julia Freyre.

ECONOMY OFFICIAL ON REFINANCING OF DEBT TO USSR

PY301515 Paris AFP in Spanish 1746 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Lima, 26 Nov (AFP) -- It was reported today in Lima that Peru has been able to refinance its foreign debt with the Soviet Union, which amounts to $519.5 million, by signing the respective agreements through which Peru will be allowed to place up to 75 percent of its debt in nontraditional products in the Soviet market and up to 25 percent of its debt in other products.

Luis Nestor Aramburu, the Peruvian vice minister of economy and finance, who returned from Moscow after signing the agreement, has noted that the first shipment of Peruvian products, consisting of lumber, textiles, and canned fish, must be sent by 10 December. He added that a few days prior to the shipment a Soviet mission will arrive in Lima for the purpose of selecting other products that have been subjected to quality tests.

Aramburu noted that the prospects for nontraditional products in Peruvian industry are brilliant, since it can conquer the vast Soviet market if the quality of the products is excellent and if the shipments are punctual. Aramburu said that on the basis of preliminary studies, Peru may place a total of $300 million worth of products on the Soviet market in 1984.

He added that this system of refinancing the foreign debt of a country through the export of nontraditional products will also be used with Yugoslavia and other countries in the socialist bloc.

ECUADORAN FISHING BOATS PAY FINES, RELEASED

PY301455 Paris AFP in Spanish 1915 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] Lima, 28 Nov (AFP) -- It was reported here today that two Ecuadoran fishing boats, the "Clementina" and "Don Cesar," captured on Friday by a Peruvian patrol boat while fishing in front of Talara, 1,200 km north of Lima, were freed today by the captaincy general of that port upon payment of $16,000 in fines.

The two fishing boats captured on Friday by the patrol boat "Huarmey" for illegally fishing in Peruvian waters, approximately 55 miles from the port of Talara, were carrying approximately 120 tons of fish that were also seized by the port authorities. Reports from the same port of Talara state that another Mexican fishing boat, captured for the same reasons a few days ago, is awaiting orders from the owner at the port.

CLOSED ENROLLMENTS IN DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY OPPOSED

PA301603 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] Forty Peruvian ambassadors have expressed support for Deputy Foreign Minister (Julio Aedo Aguirre), who has resigned in protest of the government's decision to stop further enrollments in the Diplomatic Academy of Peru [Academia Diplomatica de Peru]. The Peruvian ambassadors described the pretext used to close enrollments in the academy as childish. The Lima daily newspaper LA REPUBLICA said that in the opinion of some Peruvian diplomats, the actual motive for the decision was that the ruling Popular Action Party wants to handle diplomatic appointments.

STRIKING HEALTH WORKERS TAKE DOCTORS HOSTAGE

PY301555 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Health workers who had begun an indefinite hunger strike 16 days ago have taken several doctors hostage who were participating in a medical-surgical course in the auditorium of (Huaisa) Hospital.

Dr Manuel Paredes Manrique, president of Peru's Medical Association, is among the hostages. Paredes Manrique urged the workers to reconsider the measure and the government to meet the workers' demands as soon as possible.

HAVANA: DE LA MADRID SPEAKS ON ECONOMIC CRISIS

FL302030 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1914 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid has called on the nation to remain strong and united in the face of external threats and to stay together in the internal effort. The chief of state spoke at the opening of the eighth regular general conference of the Revolutionary Labor Confederation [COR[, where he referred to internal and external aspects of the economic crisis the country is undergoing.

In his speech, De la Madrid called on the nation to block those who are attempting to take advantage of the crisis to reverse or distort the Mexican process. The Mexican president pointed out that the country currently has two basic challenges: to overcome the economic crisis and to stay on its independent and democratic course.

OPPOSITION TO ORGANIZE COALITION AGAINST PRI

PA301700 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 28 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] According to PSD [Social Democratic Party] Secretary General Ernesto Sanchez Aguilar, the PPS [Popular Socialist Party], PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico], PST [Workers' Socialist Party], PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party], and PMT [Mexican Workers Party] have organized a coalition to defeat the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] during the elections to be held in Tamaulipas State 4 December.

During a meeting of Tamaulipas Social Democrat leaders held yesterday, 27 November, all these parties decided to organize a coalition headed by the PSD in order to defeat the PRI.

ALBANIA SEEKS PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

FL302230 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1915 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Nov (NOTIMEX) -- One of the most ambitious projects and one that has great potential of success for Albania is the signing of an agreement with Mexico giving Albania access to petrochemical technology, especially in the field of offshore drilling. An official of the Albanian Embassy in Mexico City made that statement during the celebration of the 39th anniversary of that country's liberation from fascism and the triumph of the popular revolution there.

Albanian officials emphasized that there are very good relations between their country and Mexico, and they expressed their interest in improving them even further. According to the officials, even though trade between the two countries is not of major importance, attempts have been made to increase it through several projects.

They gave assurances that there are already concrete talks underway concerning the petrochemical agreement, and it is hoped that a document will soon be signed at the Mexican Petroleum Institute.

They also indicated that efforts will be made to increase cultural exchanges between the two nations by means of a bilateral agreement that will facilitate this type of relations.

CONTADORA GROUP MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL 20 DEC

PA301736 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1630 GMT 30 Nov 83

[By Angel Antonio Garcia Munoz]

[Excerpt] Panama, 30 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- The fifth meeting of the "Contadora Group" has been postponed until 20 December, Panamanian diplomatic sources have told ACAN-EFE.

The foreign ministers meetings, which was scheduled to be held on 14 and 15 December, was postponed at the request of Mexico and Colombia, which cited "timetable commitments" that preventedtheir representatives from going to Panama on the schedule dates. According to the sources, the scheduled dates were ones on which political activities had been planned in those two countries that required the participation of Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo and Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor.

However, diplomatic sources in this capital insist that the postponement of the meeting does not change any of the meeting's topics. The main one being the approval of the "general pact for peace in Central America" drafted by the nine countries participating in the Contadora Group talks.

The deputy foreign ministers of the five Central American countries will meet here with their Contadora Group colleagues on 1 and 2 December for the purpose of including the suggestions of the governments of the area in the draft "pact".

COSTA RICA

U.S. PLANE 'DISAPPEARS' NEAR NICARAGUAN BORDER

PA301818 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1719 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] San Jose, 30 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican civil aviation spokesman today reported that a U.S. light plane with four U. S. passengers disappeared yesterday near the Nicaraguan border after overflying Costa Rican territory.

The twin-engine plane, registered as No 666 PF Beechcraft 56, left Tocument Airport in Panama at 1829 GMT yesterday and, according to its flight plan, should have arrived 3 hours later at Ilopango Airport in El Salvador. Salvadoran civil aeronautics authorities reported that the U. S. airplane did not arrive.

Personnel assigned to the control tower at Juan Santamaria Airport in Costa Rica told ACAN-EFE that the airplane reported to the tower when it flew over the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, but later all radio contact was lost.

Costa Rican Civil Aviation and Red Cross authorities have been looking for the "missing" plane today in the area near the Nicaraguan border, but have so far been unsuccessful.

HAVANA CITES IKLE ON U. S. NATIONAL GUARD AID

PA301909 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Fred Ikle, U.S. under secretary of defense, has admitted in Washington that the signing of an agreement with the Costa Rican Government to send U. S. National Guard units there is imminent.

Ikle said that the talks to send 400 to 1,000 members of the National Guard Engineer Corps to Costa Rica's northern region on the Nicaraguan border are expected to conclude successfully. That region is used by counterrevolutionaries financed by the U.S. CIA to attack Nicaragua.

Ikle, who has just returned from a tour of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, stressed that the United States must give more aid to the Salvadoran regime because the Salvadoran Army has not achieved any progress in putting down the guerrilla movement.

EL SALVADOR

U.S. DENIAL OF D'AUBUISSON VISA CRITICIZED

PA301355 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1248 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- The denial of a U.S. visa to Roberto D'Aubuisson, president of the Salvadoran Constituent Assembly, "is a slap at the people who elected him," Deputy Hugo Barrera has stated. Barrera, who belongs to the National Republican Alliance (ARENA) led by D'Aubuisson, said he did not really know whether D'Aubuisson had requested the visa from the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador.

John Hughes, a U.S. State Department spokesman, announced yesterday that his government had denied visas to Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge and to D'Aubuisson, adding that there was no connection between the two cases.

Hugo Barrera said that both D'Aubuisson and he were in Virginia last month, "which is why I am surprised at this attitude." The legislator said of this situation: "Far from harming D'Aubuisson's image, it favors him, because he has been a staunch fighter against communism and was elected to his post in one of the most significant elections held in the country."

A source close to D'Aubuisson confirmed that the president of the Assembly had requested the visa from the U.S. Embassy in this capital, "as any citizen would have done."

ELECTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT RESIGNS POSITION

PA292355 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Report by Hernan Guezada de la Torre]

[Text] At 1100 today we learned that the acting president of the Central Electoral Council, Doctor Rafael Angel Hasbun, presented his resignation due to differences with other members of the Council. The ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] party, of which Hasbun is a member, demanded his resignation because rumors implied that certain illegal agreements were being negotiated, and Hasbun was supposed to sign the documents involved.

His resignation has caused a crisis in the Central Electoral Council. The vacancy will be filled by Doctor Armando Rodriguez Eguizabal, who was acting vice president of the Council. The Council members are holding a meeting behind closed doors in an attempt to reorganize the Council. Hasbun is the second official to resign from the Council The first was the Council's president, Ricardo Alfredo Maida.

GUERRILLAS, SANDINIST LEADERS PLAN JOINT ACTIONS

PA292310 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] The Salvadoran Army has charged that leaders of the Sandinist government and the Salvadoran guerrilla groups have agreed to plan joint actions, under the pretext of an eventual invasion. The Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, states that the leftist leaders held a meeting in Managua on 23 November to coordinate an international plan for a political-military solution at the regional level in Central America. According to COPREFA, participants in the meeting included Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Victor Tinoco and, representing the Salvadoran guerrilla groups, Salvador Samayoa, Oscar Acevedo, Mario Lopez, and Mario Aguinada Carranza.

COPREFA stated that this meeting reveals the political-military alliance between the Managua regime and the Salvadoran guerrilla groups. Representatives of the FMLN and FDR in San Jose, Costa Rica, recently warned about the danger of a U.S. invasion in Central America.

EXTREMISTS ATTACKED BY MORAZAN BATTALION

PA300448 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 29 Nov 83 pp 2, 31

[Text] Artillery units and members of the Morazan Battalion, supported by Air Force planes, discovered various terrorist columns in Morazan, and inflicted several casualties on the rebel forces.

According to the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, several columns of subversives were discovered in Torola, San Fernando, El Guarumo, Agua Zarca, El Cootillo, El Picacho, and El Tortolico, in Morazan Department. The Army attack was of such magnitude and speed that the extremist groups had no time to defend themselves adequately; therefore, they had to flee in disarray, heading in different directions in the area, COPREFA reported.

According to reports, the FMLN terrorists suffered numerous casualties. The extremists took some of the corpses and wounded guerrillas with them.

In addition, COPREFA reported that the Arce Battalion recovered two M-79 grenade launchers, seven M-16 rifles, and seven mortars in the neighborhood of El Caserio, El Tablon, both in Morazan Department.

RADIO VENCEREMOS NOTES RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Death Squad Activities

PA300355 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Radio Venceremos has received a report from San Miguel Department proving that members of the Army and other repressive corps are the ones who comprise the death squads and have caused thousands of deaths in our country. The report reveals that on 26 November two brothers were killed in San Miguel by a company of the Cazadores Battalion. At 1400, 26 November, the youths, Salvador Alvarado, an 18-year-old worker, and Roberto Alvarado, a farmer, were taken from a bus.

Salvador's throat was slit right in front of the people of Chapeltique; Roberto was shot at the access road to (Puertas Chachas), on the raod between Chapeltique and Moncagua.

These two youths lived in canton El Pezate, Chapeltique jurisdiction, north of San Miguel Department.

These crimes, committed by the puppet Army's troops, prove beyond a doubt who are members of the death squads, which have committed so many crimes in our country, resulting in the cynical statements made by the gringo Ambassador Thomas Pickering. These criminals are being financed by the Reagan administration with its millions of dollars.

Our people, led by the FMLN, will make justice prevail!

FMLN Reports Army Casualties

PA300404 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] We have received the following military information from the Jucuaran sector of the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front: At 0900 on 28 November, FMLN squads attacked and harassed the enemy forces stationed on the bridge over the Santa Maria River on the outskirts of Usulutan. The puppet Army's troops suffered five casualties, including some dead. We suffered no casualties. The operation was led by Companero Lito, and the information was reported by Commander Pedro from the Jucuaran area.

Communist Party Communique

PA300444 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Communique issued by the Communist Party of El Salvador, PCES, member of the FMLN, in San Salvador, 27 November 83]

[Text] In light of the public proposal for the exchange of prisoners and the recent statements by one of the death squads, the Communist Party of El Salvador points out the following:

1. The arrest of Companeros Jose Francisco Menjivar Rivera, Angel Renan Gomez, and Hugo Edgardo Martinez Guzman was carried out by the National Police between 5 and 8 November in San Salvador, and not on 20 November in canton El Limon, Soyapango, as they are now trying to make us believe. This can be proven by the report issued by relatives of Companero Jose Francisco Menjivar Rivera after his disapperance on 8 November. The report was published on page 37 of LA PRENSA GRAFICA's 17 November edition. This was not an isolated event. On the same date the National Police, according to a report by the Armed Forces Press Committee, captured some 50 persons on the same charge of belonging to the Armed Forces of Liberation, FAL, the armed branch of the Communist Party of El Salvador. In truth, there were more arrests. Some people have already been found, murdered. Some 46 have been presented to the press, and their names were published between 16 and 17 November. Meanwhile, other arrested persons are still reported missing. In other words, when the spokesmen of the death squads say that on 20 November they captured our three companeros, the three had been in the National Police's custody for more than 12 days. They are still being held in one of the clandestine jails of these same corps.

2. The culprit directly responsible for these arrests, deaths, and disappearances of patriots, and for the threat to kill our three kidnapped companeros, is Colonel Reinaldo Lopez Nuila, director of the National Police, who, together with General Eugenio Vides Casanova, Colonel Nicolas Carranza, Francisco Moran, Miguel Vasconcelos, Elmer Araugo, Onecifero Blandon, Aristides Montes, and Domingo Monterrosa, Majors Roberto D'Aubuisson and Napoleon Medina Garay, and other military commanders comprise the mafia of war criminals who have been comitting massacres and thousands of murders in their posts in the Armed Forces under the mask of the so-called death squads.

3. The real purposes of this public proposal for the exchange of prisoners, which was signed by Lopez Nuila under the pseudonym of Aquiles Baide, are: a) To attempt to rescue Major Napoleon Medina Garay, who was captured by the FMLN during combat in Nuevo Eden de San Juan. They have included Colonel Castillo and other [words indistinct] in their demands in order to disguise their special interest in Medina Garay, who is a member of their mafia of hardcore killers. Otherwise, how can they explain that during the more than 17 months Colonel Castillo has been prisoner by the FMLN not a single step was taken to obtain his freedom. Now they hurry to propose an exchange when we capture the butcher of El Junquillo, which is the well-known alias of Major Medina Garay. b) To give a humantarian mask to the death squads and [words indistinct] independence from the Armed Forces, now that they are being hypocritically criticized by the Yankee ambassador himself. He only wants to improve Reagan's image and free him from any responsibility for the crimes committed by the killers he finances. He is also seeking to pave the way in Congress for the approval of more military aid to the puppet regime of Alvaro Magana. This time it includes the installation of a U.S. military base in the eastern part of our country.

4. The FMLN has warned that if any of our companeros are murdered, Major Medina Garay will be given a trial, and we will implement the death sentence he deserves for his crimes. Colonel Reinaldo Lopez Nuila and the Armed Forces High Command will be held responsible for anything that may happen to our companeros. The Communist Party of El Salvador fully supports this decision of the FMLN and, as a member of the FMLN, the communists will not rest in our struggle until the final victory of the Salvadoran people is achieved and the executioners of the people are punished.

5. We issue a call to national and international humanitarian organizations and democratic organizations and governments of the world so that they may help to avoid a new crime against the Salvadoran people, to ensure respect for the lives of our captured companeros, and to end the massacre being carried out by the puppet dictatorship of U.S. imperialism, which has taken the lives of more than 50,000 people.

Proletarians of the world, united to fight until the final victory. Revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] Shafick Jorge Handal, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of El Salvador, and general commander of the Armed Forces of Liberation

Ramon Belloso Column Attacked

PA301439 (Clandestine) Radio Vencremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] We have information that has come to Radio Venceremos from the area of Cerros de San Pedro, San Vicente Department, on the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front. Fierce clashes took place early on 28 November in the cantons of Amatitan Abajo, Santa Rosa, and Las Guayabillas, all in the jurisdiction of Santa Clara, San Vicente Department. Members of the FMLN carried out military operations, striking at the enemy's forces. After fierce clashes during the early morning hours, 0030 we attacked a column of the Ramon Belloso Battalion, the gringo battalion, inflicting many casualties.

Afterward, in an attempt to evacuate the wounded members of the Ramon Belloso Battalion and to cover their usual withdrawal, the enemy began a heavy artillery attack on our positions with 60-mm and 81-mm mortars, 90-mm cannon, and 105-mm howitzers.

They have placed their artillery pieces in Villa Santa Clara.

Our military forces' continuous harassment of the enemy's positions, despite the heavy artillery fire, destroyed the morale of the gringo Ramon Belloso Battalion. Our forces are thus striking at the demoralized gringo battalion in San Vicente, which is led by Colonel Roberto Murcia Rodriguez [as heard], himself. He has begun to receive more blows from the FMLN in San Vicente Department.

This information was sent from Cerros de San Pedro by Commander Camilo.

New Fighters Graduated

PA010202 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 1 Dec 83

[Text] Our revolutionary army is growing and its technical capability is increasing. A group of fighters has just been graduated from the Rafael Arce Zablah Military School in the northeastern zone. The graduation ceremony took place amidst great revolutionary enthusiasm. The new fighters participated in a military parade and ground maneuvers, in which they demonstrated the effectiveness of our military tactics on disguises, camouflage techniques, and surprise annihilation attacks. In another transmission, Radio Venceremos will carry a full report on the ceremony, which was another step forward in the daily growth and technical proficiency of our forces in the people's war.

HAVANA ON FMLN VIEW OF RECENT ARMY CHANGES

PA300403 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Radio Venceremos, the voice of the FMLN, has stressed that the recent changes in top Salvadoran Army echelons are aimed at guaranteeing U.S. military control over the country. The radio mentioned the promotion of U.S. officers [as heard] to command positions in the Army, and the attempts to end the deep divisions within the Armed Forces in order to avoid a possible coup d'etat.

Other dispatches have reported that THE MIAMI HERALD confirmed that FMLN guerrillas are in complete control of Morazan, La Union, and San Miguel Departments. The newspaper stated that the rebels have schools, hospitals, social institutions, and training centers for new guerrillas in these departments. These installations graduate approximately 100 recruits a month.

Meanwhile, the FMLN reported that in the first 30 days of the "Yankees, Out of Grenada and Central America" campaign, the Army has sustained almost 500 casualties, including dead, wounded, and prisoners, as well as lost a large quantity of war materiel. It also reported that an A-7 plane from Honduras attacked three cantons near Las Vueltas, Chalatenango Department.

Havana Cites Battle Statistics

PA300414 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] The FMLN has reported that the 1st month of the guerrillas' "Yankee, Out of Grenada and Central America" military campaign has cost the Salvadoran Army 200 casualties, 259 prisoners, 200 rifles, and 30 artillery pieces. The rebel station Radio Venceremos reported that in this period the insurgents occupied four towns, dismantled the Gerardo Barrios Cazadores Battalion, and accepted the surrender of a company from the 6th Infantry Brigade.

Other reports state that the Salvadoran Army has dispatched new contingents to reinforce the country's central and eastern fronts, where the military has been fruitlessly engaged in a gigantic counterinsurgency operation since last week. Military sources have pointed out that at least eight contingents from the 5th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in San Vicente, and cavalry stationed in Apastepeque have been sent with heavy artillery and with support from mechanized units, including several armored vehicles. It was reported earlier that several injuries and the death of a young girl were caused by the Salvadoran Army's indiscriminate bombing of the town of Torola in Morazan Department, where the regime's troops are trying to dislodge the guerrillas.

GUATEMALA

ALFONSIN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS CLAIM TO BELIZE

PA301948 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 30 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 29 Nov -- during a visit to EL GRAFICO today, Dr Conrado Estorani, energy minister of the government of Argentine President-elect Raul Alfonsin, stated: "Guatemala's claim to Belize is supported by the new constitutional government of the Republic of Argentina, which is headed by Dr Raul Alfonsin." "Guatemala's claim to Belize and Argentina's claim to the Malvinas Islands are no longer the concern of our two countries alone. These claims are a legitimate cause for all of Latin America," Dr Estorani pointed out.

One of the events in which Latin Americans take pride is the Argentine Republic's clean passage into democracy. Dr Estorani has been one of the leading figures of this process, since he is the president of the National Assembly of the Radical Civil Union, UCR, whose presidential candidate, Dr Raul Alfonsin, emerged victorious in the recent Argentine elections.

HAVANA NOTES ARMS ORGANIZATION MEMBER ACTIONS

FL301600 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] The guerrilla forces of Guatemala's People in Arms organization carried out a successful operation in which they inflicted 37 casualties on the government forces in San Marcos, Department. The rebel operation occurred in La Blanca when the rebels intercepted a military vehicle traveling along one of the main roads. The Public Relations Office of the Guatemalan Army has admitted that at least 7 soldiers were killed and another 30 wounded. A few hours earlier, another insurgent attack was reported in Solola Department, where the commandant of the base in that area, Colonel Ruiz Alfonso Rebulliz, was killed. Rebulliz was considered to be one of the most experienced Army officers in antiguerrilla warfare.

HONDURAS

ALVAREZ CANCELS U.S. TRIP DUE TO ILLNESS

PA301512 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Communique issued by the Honduran Armed Forces Public Relation Directorate; date and place not given]

[Text] The Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate announces to the Honduran people that Brigadier General Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez, commander of the Armed Forces, is in ill health, and that doctors have prescribed rest.

Thus Brig Gen Alvarez Martinez was unable to travel to the United States as a member of a high-level delegation. Colonel Jose Abdenego Bueso Rosas, chief of the joint staff, was appointed to replace him in the delegation. The Armed Forces commander is at home under his doctor's care.

Alvarez Discusses Illness

PA301614 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Telephone interview with Brigadier General Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, by an unidentified Washington correspondent on 29 November -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We have called General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, who is in Tegucigalpa. General, we were waiting for you here in Washington. We are very sorry that you couldn't come to Washington this afternoon.

[Alvarez Martinez] I am also sorry I couldn't go. It was a very important mission for my country, but unfortunately I woke up with paratyphoid and a high fever. I had to appoint Colonel Bueso at the last minute to replace me. I won't be able to get out of bed for 5 or 6 days.

[Reporter] Many people were calling the embassy, since they were interested in your visit to Washington. We didn't find out until this morning that Col Bueso was coming. What do the doctors say about your illness?

[Alvarez Martinez] They say that paratyphoid requires rest and the necessary medication, so I think I will recover soon. My brother is treating me.

[Reporter] My good friend, Arturo?

[Alvarez Martinez] That is right.

[Reporter] Do you have any message for the U.S. people?

[Alvarez Martinez] The U.S. Government officials with whom the mission will meet should understand that we are experiencing an emergency situation and therefore they should take emergency measures to support Honduras. This is a normal [word indistinct]. It is essential that there be a reply in the next few weeks. I hope they will understand how urgent and desperate the situation is so that they will give us a hand.

[Reporter] When you recover -- which we hope will be very soon -- are you planning to visit the United States?

[Alvarez Martinez] Well, it will depend on the results of the mission.

[Reporter] Anything else to add?

[Alvarez Martinez] No, thank you very much for your call. I hope you will treat the mission well and that it will be successful.

[Reporter] Thank you General. We hope that you will recover. Send greetings to Dr Arturo Alvarez.

EPS PLATOON KILLS 1, KIDNAPS 2 IN CHOLUTECA

PA301734 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 29 Nov 83 p 89

[Excerpt] Last weekend a 20-man Sandinist People's Army (EPS) platoon from Nicaragua crossed into Honduran territory in the area known as Minas de Cacanuya, San Marcos de Colon, Choluteca Department, where they killed a compatriot and kidnapped two others. Reports from there received by Choluteca military authorities indicate that at about 1100 on Saturday the platoon entered Honduras, and after harassing the residents of Minas de Cacanuya, kidnapped three bricklayers.

Relatives of Concepcion Diaz Padilla -- who was killed by the EPS soldiers, probably because he offered some resistance when the kidnappers reached the border -- report that Diaz Padilla's two companions, who were identified as Andres and German Salgado, were taken to "Nica" territory, and that nothing had been heard about them 48 hours after the incident.

HAVANA REPORTS ON U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES

FL231358 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Reports from Tegucigalpa indicate that the U.S.-Honduran joint maneuvers in the Atlantic are now concentrated on (Isla del Tigre) in the Gulf of Fonseca, in the port of San Lorenzo in the eastern Department of Olancho, and the (Palmelola) Base in Comayagua. On (Isla del Tigre), the Yankee troops have installed a radar station for which 100 Marines are responsible. Its essential purpose is operations against Nicaraguan territory.

CORRECTION TO ORTEGA LETTER TO SUAZO ON CONDECA

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ortega Letter to Suazo on CONDECA Cited," published in the 30 November Latin America DAILY REPORT, page P 12:

The item's sourceline should read:

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Nov 83 p 3 (correcting placename)

NICARAGUA

BORGE ON VISA DENIAL, LESSENED CHANCE OF INVASION

PA301926 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge announced yesterday that the electoral process will begin here in January. He added that an offical announcement in this connection will be made on 4 December, when dates will be set and other pertinent aspects will be discussed. Borge confirmed this at a news conference held for national and foreign newsmen at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry to discuss the U.S. refusal to grant him a visa. He added that as a contribution to regional peace, Nicaragua has considered the possibility of military advisers leaving Nicaragua, if an agreement on this issue is reached at the Central American level. Commenting on a possible invasion of our country, the minister said that although there is a lesser chance of a direct and imminent attack on Nicaragua now, this possibility has not yet been ruled out.

Concerning the violation of our airspace by two U.S. planes on Monday, Borge said that for the last 2 years the United States has been making spy flights over our territory as part of its policy against Nicaragua.

Concerning the refusal to grant him a visa, Commander Borge said that this decision violates the international norms that exist between countries that maintain diplomatic relations. He added that the denial also violates the U.S. people's right to learn the truth about what is happening in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua. The interior minister said that Nicaragua has never denied, nor will it ever deny, a visa to any U.S. official. Even Mr Reagan himself can come here because we are not afraid of his statements, the Sandinist leader stressed. An excerpt of Borge's statement follows:

[Begin Borge recording] A few hours ago our embassy in Washington notified us that the U.S. Government had denied us a visa to visit the United States. No explanation was given for the denial. However, we have learned from very reliable sources in Washington that U.S. President Ronald Reagan himself turned down my visa request.

This decision by the U.S. Government has greatly surprised us, because we had already agreed to meet in the United States with many U.S. personalities, celebrities, and congressmen. We had also agreed to visit various universities and institutions. [Words indistinct] that neither the White House nor the Pentagon want to give the impression that they have softened their stand.

In other words, (?they have interpreted) the most recent decisions by our country, our government, and our revolution as the result of a hard line of military pressure on Nicaragua. According to them, it is necessary to continue this hard line in the hope that Nicaragua will make further concessions in the future. They are thus interpreting our flexible stand and peaceful policy as evidence of weakness, as a concession obtained through the use of force. They felt that granting the visa might be viewed as a softening of the U.S. Government's stand on Nicaragua. [end recording]

Ortega on Visa Denial

PA301859 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Government Junta, has described the U.S. Government's refusal to grant a visa to Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez, Nicaragua's interior minister, as a regrettable action. Commander Ortega yesterday told local and foreign journalists that despite such decisions, the Nicaraguan Government maintains its stand in favor of dialogue. He added that any American citizen could [words indistinct] to find a solution to the regional problems, but that it is expected that this good will would exist on the part of [words indistinct] Contadora Group. Those points include the withdrawal of the foreign military advisers from the area.

Commander Ortega does not discard the possibility that the Reagan administration might stage a military intervention here in Nicaragua. He backed his assertion by noting that at present there is a U.S. military deployment in the waters adjacent to our territory. This, he said, continues to pose a threat to our country's security.

Commander Ortega said that Nicaragua has lodged several specific protests which merit a response from the U.S. Government.

Havana on Visa Denial

PA301855 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge has said in Managua that the White House refusal to grant him a visa to enter the United States is against the practice of international law and is a new demonstration of President Ronald Reagan's warmongering and aggressive policy.

In remarks to U.S. journalists over the telephone, Borge said that Washington interprets recent actions by Nicaragua to prevent a bloodbath in the region as the fruit of Washington's hard line. Borge stressed that the Sandinist revolution has been adjusting its policy according to circumstances, but that it will not make unilateral concessions or concessions on principles.

Tomas Borge, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, indicated that during his planned visit to the United States he was going to explain to the U.S. people Nicaragua's desire for peace and understanding. He stressed that the Managua government proposes a policy of peace not because it is on the verge of losing power, but at a time when even the CIA has admitted that the counterrevolutionaries have no prospects of success.

Borge's visit to the United States would have included meetings with U.S. congressmen and lectures on the situation in Nicaragua and Central America at several universities.

Press reports indicate that Ronald Reagan personally issued the order to deny the visa for Borge, despite the State Department's recommendation in favor of the visit by the Nicaraguan interior minister. This is the third time that Tomas Borge has been denied a visa to enter the United States.

ORTEGA NOTES U.S. POLICIES, CUBAN ADVISERS

PA300308 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Nov 83

[News conference held by Nicaraguan Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua, on 29 November 1983, following a meeting with Monsignor Domingo Roa Perez, president of the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference; questioners not identified -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ortega Saavedra] We met with them to exchange views and to inform them about the country's general situation and the international situation. In our talks, we expressed Nicaragua's willingness to continue the dialogue and negotiations on the problems that are being discussed at the international level.

[Question] It has been said that the United States has refused to grant Commander Borge a visa. Could you comment on this?

[Ortega Saavedra] In truth, this is a regrettable decision. This is all we can say: It is a regrettable decision.

[Question] Were you surprised that the visa wasn't granted?

[Ortega Saavedra] No, they had been delaying granting the visa.

[Question] What does this mean?

[Ortega Saavedra] For the time being we can say that it is a regrettable decision by the U.S. Government. I am sure that Commander Borge will prepare some report..some... [interrupted]

[Question] Regarding the relations between the two countries, what would this mean?

[Ortega Saavedra] What I can say is that Nicaragua maintains its willingness to talk with the United States despite these decisions. Any American (?is a problem) [words indistinct]...[interrupted]

[Question] The U.S. Administration has said that time will tell whether the intentions of your government are sincere. What do you think of this?

[Ortega Saavedra] I believe tht there must be continuity -- particularly in practice -- in the guidelines the U.S. Government [word indistinct] to find a political solution to the problems of the region. In this regard, Nicaragua presented very specific proposals which merit a response from the United States.

[Question] Commander, regarding the withdrawal of Cuban advisers, are you willing to let all of them go?

[Ortega Saavedra] Our (?stand) has been very clear. During our first visit to the Contadora Group presidents -- which took place recently, when we visited these presidents -- we stated officially that Nicaragua agrees to the immediate withdrawal of all foreign military advisers from the Central American region and the suspension of the arms flow to this area. We specifically made this statement to the Contadora Group leaders in meetings we held in mid-November in Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama. This stand was duly expressed in a letter sent to them. This stand has also been fully explained by Commander Henry Ruiz, companero Sergio Ramirez, and Commander Tomas Borge.

[Question] What reports do you have on the movement of ships and planes in the Pacific?

[Ortega Saavedra] Despite every effort that is being made within the framework of negotiations, and despite the fact that the international public opposes a policy of intervention against or invasion of Nicaragua, the military operations against Nicaragua have continued. The U.S. military presence around Nicaragua continues. This is something which must keep us on the alert, so that we will always be prepared to face any action launched against Nicaragua.

[Question] The U.S. Administration talks about studying the good will of Nicaragua. Is there any good will on the part of the U.S. Administration with regard to the 21 points proposed by the Contadora Group, as they claim?

[Ortega Saavedra] We can speak for Nicaragua. There is good will on the part of Nicaragua. What we hope to find is good will on the part of the United States. However, the United States has thus far engaged only in military actions, as we have mentioned, from Honduran territory and the waters near our territory. This continues to be a threat to our country's security, and indicates that the possibility for a military intervention in Nicaragua is not ruled out. [words indistinct]

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega Saavedra] The spy planes have continued to violate our airspace, and the ships are still there.

[Question] (?Have any Cubans left the country so far, Commander?)

[Ortega Saavedra] Regarding this, Cuban workers who had to leave have been departing. [Words indistinct] such as teachers... [interrupted]

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega Saavedra] Some Cuban workers have left... [interrupted]

[Question] Will they come back or (?will they stay permanently)?

[Ortega Saavedra] Some are on vacation, others will stay.

[Question] Is this unusual?

[Ortega Saavedra] What we must say is that Nicaragua maintains its willingness -- and it has said this to the U.S. Government -- to remove all foreign military advisers from the Central American region.

[Question] Will Nicaragua be willing to agree to certain verification measures for all the Contadora Group agreements?

[Ortega Saavedra] We feel it is necessary. I think so, yes.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega Saavedra] In the first place, there is the Contadora Group, but there is also the United Nations.

[Question] Does this imply the presence of troops or foreign observers (?from all) the Contadora governments?

[Ortega Saavedra] That is not contemplated for the time being. What is contemplated is verification as prescribed in the agreement that will be adopted. But this does not imply the presence of troops.

MINISTER CARDENAL SAID MISTREATED WHILE IN U.S.

PA0100l7 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2033 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpt] A new arrogant attitude displayed by the U.S. Government against the people and Government of Nicaragua was denounced a few minutes ago in New York by Father Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaraguan culture minister. Father Ernesto Cardenal arrived in New York, from Europe, on 28 November. During a press conference held a few minutes ago in New York, Father Ernesto Cardenal told reporters that he was detained at the airport in New York for 3 hours, during which he was rudely interrogated. His luggage was also searched, despite the fact that he is traveling with a diplomatic passport. We repeat -- on 28 November, in New York, Nicaraguan Culture Minister Father Ernesto Cardenal, despite the fact that he is traveling with a diplomatic passport, because he holds the title of minister, was detained for 3 hours and rudely interrogated, and he and his luggage were searched.

Father Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaraguan minister of culture, explained that among the questions asked by those interrogating him were: what political party he belonged to, his reason for visiting the United States, and whether he intended to participate in political events. We came to present proposals for peace and dialogue, but this is the kind of treatment we have received, Father Ernesto Cardenal said.

This outrageous treatment of a minister of our Sandinist revolution, and, most of all, the outrageous treatment of a priest -- we repeat, outrageous treatment of a priest -- occurred in New York.

D'ESCOTO PRESENTS REPORT TO STATE COUNCIL

PA302009 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Report by Oscar Alvarez]

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman appeared before the Nicaraguan State Council today. He explained Nicaragua's desire to achieve a concrete solution of the Central American conflict. This was broadly analyzed in this session scheduled by the State Council's special emergency commission. Father D'Escoto pointed out that the United States and its government are determined to use force rather than dialogue, thus acting against the process of Contadora, whose efforts they are blocking. Nicaragua, Father D'Escoto Brockman said, is the only country that has presented specific proposals to resolve the situation in Central America. Foreign Minister D'Escoto referred to Nicaragua's success in obtaining a seat in the UN Security Council and in including the topic of Central America in the UN debates. Father D'Escoto Brockman said this is due to the fact that Nicaragua is an independent and nonaligned country, capable of freely defending the UN Charter and principles. Let us hear an except of Father D'Escoto's speech, when he referred to the objectives and successes of Contadora:

[Begin recording] It was viewed as an important step, because to date no specific and detailed proposal had been made to guarantee peace and security in the countries of the region. This was very clearly and explicitly stated in THE WASHINGTON POST a few days after we presented the proposal. In a very important editorial, the editorialist replied to the State Department's statement on the Nicaraguan proposal. The State Department had said that it had received it, and that it considered it interesting, but that it was not sufficient or exhaustive, implying that we had not referred to the 21 points in the Contadora Document of Objectives that was agreed upon and approved about 2 months ago. It said that we didn't refer to all of them, and that the proposal was insufficient. However, not then, nor later or since then, has any U.S. Government spokesman referred to the substance of what we have presented. The U.S. Government simply said that it rejects the proposal because it considers it inappropriate. The POST editorialist referred to what the State Department initially said. The editorialist said that first of all, Nicaragua had said upon presenting the proposal that it did not intend to exhaust all the possibilities for agreements that might stem from the Document of Objectives, and that Nicaragua's four-point proposal, which included three draft treaties and a draft of an international agreement, gives priority to everything that involves the prevention of a war and guarantees for the peace and security of the Central American states. It is a little absurd to speak of future plans of great friendship and not to do anything to prevent the war that is threatening us.

Therefore, I would say that there has been broad support in the U.S. news media. The newspapers headlined the presentation of our proposal on their front pages. [end recording]

Announces New Peace Proposals

PA302051 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1941 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Managua, 30 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Government will submit three new peace proposals to the "Contadora Group" next month, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto reported today. While speaking before the Nicaraguan State Council, D'Escoto said that Nicaragua's proposals will be taken to the Contadora Group and the Central American foreign ministers meeting which will be held in Panama in December.

D'Escoto explained that one of the Sandinists' proposals is a "preliminary draft of military commitments" [anteproyecto de compromisos militares], while another is a "draft of a political declaration at the foreign ministers' level on domestic policy matters." The third proposal involves a "draft agreement to promote Central America's economic and social development," together with a plan of action to implement the agreements.

The minister stressed that Nicaragua is the only Central American country thus far that has submitted concrete proposals by which to develop the 21-point "Document of Objectives for Peace" approved by the Contadora Group.

During his address to this country's legislators, D'Escoto recalled that Nicaragua submitted its first peace proposal to the "Contadora Group," the Central American countries, and the U.S. Government on 15 October. He stressed that this new initiative involves drafts of three treaties and an agreement intended to promote peaceful solutions to the crisis in Central America. According to the Nicaraguan foreign minister, the "Contadora Group," composed of Panama, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, has asked the other Central American nations to submit their own peace proposals, but none has done so to date.

D'Escoto said that the Central American nations will probably submit their proposals during the meeting of "Contadora" technical representatives, which will open in Panama tomorrow. It is the Nicaraguan Government's view that, with the three new proposals which will be submitted before Christmas, there will be no point approved by Contadora to which the Sandinists will not have addressed themselves, the Nicaraguan foreign minister said.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR SAYS NO ADVISERS IN COUNTRY

PA292323 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2030 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] Managua, 29 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- German Shlyapnikov, Soviet ambassador to Nicaragua, has said that there is no reason for any member of the Soviet Embassy to leave the country, and that there are no Soviet military advisers in Nicaragua. He also said that there are 20 officials in the embassy, 15 doctors in Managua and Chinandega, and 15 professors at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, UNAN.

Shlyapnikov explained that the USSR maintains a policy of solidarity with the Sandinist revolution, and that it supports the peace efforts that the Nicaraguan Government and the Contadora Group are engaging in to prevent a war in Central America. He added that his government's policy is to seek peace and world security, and that it does not meddle in other countries' internal affairs.

Shlyapnikov said that NATO and Western European and U.S. political circles should try to reach an agreement with the USSR and socialist countries to stop the arms race and prevent a nuclear war.

BORGE, ORTEGA VIEW CUBAN ADVISER WITHDRAWAL

FL302254 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1733 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Managua, 29 Nov (NOTIMEX) -- Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge today said that Nicaragua is willing to ask the Government of Cuba to withdraw its military advisers from the country within the context of a Central American agreement. In statements to the press, the Nicaraguan diplomat reiterated the position of the Sandinist government favoring an arms reduction in Central America with the objective of finding a peaceful solution to the conflicts in the region. He said: As soon as military advisers leave Central America, we will remove all Cuban advisers who are in Nicaragua. He added: In this country there are 200 military advisers from Havana. He confirmed the exist of a large number of Cubans from Nicaragua, which he said was a demonstration that peace is wanted in Central America.

On the other hand, he said that Nicaragua is ready to keep arms control agreements in the area within the framework of the Contadora measures. Nevertheless, he added that the subject of the institutionalization of the Nicaraguan process by means of elections is a problem that belongs exclusively to the Nicaraguan people.

Speaking about a direct aggression against his country by the United States, he said that the U.S. Government's arguments in favor of invading had been weakened by the position of Americans living in Nicaragua and by Managua's bold policy, able diplomacy, and principles. Nevertheless, the Sandinist leader said that it seemed that the White House was leaning toward more hardline positions. He added that the U.S. Administration lacks pretexts to launch an open aggression against Nicaragua and that its arguments had collapsed before the latest Nicaraguan proposals.

Borge said: If some hope that we are going to make concessions in our principles they will be mistaken. He added that the negotiations will take place with mutual and bilateral concessions, discussing them, negotiating, and reaching agreements.

Meanwhile, Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, today confirmed that Cuban citizens who are working in this country as advisers are beginning to leave Nicaragua.

Following a meeting with the president of the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference, Ortega explained that the measure results from the political will the Nicaraguan Government to comply with the Document of Objectives signed by leaders of the Central American countries and by the presidents of the Contadora Group countries.

Nicaragua maintains its decision that not one foreign military adviser will remain in Central America in order that the peace efforts of the Contadora Group will have concrete results.

He added that Nicaragua reiterates its willingness to effect the immediate halt of the flow of arms from all governments in the area to armed groups just as the Document of Objectives establishes. He also emphasized the desire of his country to hold talks with the United States despite Washington's regretable decision to deny a visa to Interior Minister Tomas Borge. He also confirmed the Sandinist Foreign Ministry's report yesterday, Monday, of the presence of U.S. warships in Nicaraguan territorial waters.

Finally, referring to the military situation, he said that the possibility of a counterrevolutionary and U.S. invasion was a threat, although Nicaragua has the capability to repel any aggression, including one by Honduran troops.

ORTEGA ON TRIP TO ARGENTINA, CONTADORA

PA302025 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Government Junta Coordinator Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra has described the Nicaraguan Government's invitation to attend the inauguration of Argentine President-elect Raul Alfonsin on 10 December as showing an attitude of sympathy on the part of the Argentine people toward the Sandinist people's revolution.

In an exclusive interview for this newscast, Commander Ortega added that relations between Argentina and Nicaragua are very good. This, he added, was made evident in the wake of the aggression on the Malvinas.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] We will attend President-elect Alfonsin's inauguration. We will be in Buenos Aires 9-11 December. We know that a large number of Latin American and European leaders will be on hand. This will enable us to have an exchange in order to increase awareness about the current situation in Central America, especially in Nicaragua, to demand greater solidarity with Nicaragua and more actions to check a (?possible) intervention in Central America, and above all, to strengthen the Latin American spirit and unity along with the resolve of all those countries that truly favor peace.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander, what does attendance at this ceremony at this difficult time for our country mean for the Nicaraguan people?

[Ortega] It is a big chance for the Nicaraguan people to participate in Argentina's process of democratization which, logically, is endorsed by the Argentine people, for whom the Nicaraguan people have high regard. In turn, the Nicaraguan people have the Argentine people's solidarity.

[Reporter] Can you describe relations between our two countries at present?

[Ortega] We maintain good relations. This was clearly shown in the wake of the aggression against Argentina in the Malvinas, when Nicaragua adopted a belligerent stand at the head of the Latin American peoples on behalf of Argentina.

[Reporter] Commander, on another subject now, what does the Nicaraguan Government expect from the next Contadora meeting, since only Nicaragua has presented specific proposals on arms reduction and the withdrawal of advisers?

[Ortega] Well, Nicaragua was the first to present specific proposals, but we don't know if other Central American countries have submitted other proposals since then. The technical commission will hold a meeting in early December. Later, on 14-15 December, the foreign ministers will hold another meeting. Nicaragua is interested in further advances in the process of negotiation on the 21 points ratified by all of the Central American governments in the Document of Objectives of Contadora. We think this is what the situation demands: going from words to actions in accord with the true possibilities for advancement. [end recording]

BORGE REPORTS CIA PLOT TO JUSTIFY INVASION

FL251310 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge has reported that the CIA plans to assassinate Archbishop Monsignor Miguel Ovando and several oppostion leaders to justify a subsequent invasion of Nicaragua.

Borge noted that there are thousands of former Somozist guards and Honduran soldiers concentrated in Honduras across the border from Zelayz Norte on the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast.

Bishop Praised, Plot Denied

PA301648 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 29 Nov 83 p 33

[Excerpts] Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, president of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] National Directorate and commander in chief of the insurgent armed forces, has said that Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo, archbishop of Managua, "is acting in accordance with the teachings of the church."

The top prelate of the Nicaraguan church recently said that the people have the right to turn to armed action as a last resort to achieve social, economic, and political changes for the benefit of the masses. Obando y Bravo ruled out the use of nonviolent measures in Nicaragua, "because they require complete freedom."

In statements to 15 September, a rebel radio station, Calero Portocarrero said the impressive statement by the archbishop of Managua "represents a step forward in the Nicaraguan people's struggle against the Sandinist regime."

Calero also said that "Commander Tomas Borge's charge that Msgr Obando y Bravo could be assassinated by the CIA and the rebel groups is absurd."

The president of the FDN National Directorate said: "As Christians, we would never raise a finger against our bishops; the Marxist atheists cannot say the same thing."

CHAMORRO ON CENSORSHIP, ECONOMY, MILITARY

PA291630 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Interview with Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, co-director of the Nicaraguan newspaper LA PRENSA, by Rosi Castillo in El Salvador; no date given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Chamorro] We are honored to share with the Central American journalists our everday experiences in the midst of a very difficult situation, under which independent journalism is being increasingly stifled, to the point that a very large number of journalists in Nicaragua are jobless or without a communications medium. That is the worst situation for a journalist, not only [words indistinct], they can't even work. When the state of emergency was imposed in Nicaragua, some 20 newscasts of the independent radio stations' were canceled.

LA PRENSA, which is a very important newspaper, survives perhaps because of its past status. Closing LA PRENSA down completely would cost too much politically. The paper also survives due to the method of prior censorship -- unpleasant for a journalist -- which the government has implemented. In other words, we can survive so long as we obey the orders of a censor, who must read and edit all our material daily. The censor is not just one person; they have set up a full office to censor LA PRENSA exclusively. In some instances information that has been censored in LA PRENSA is published the next day in BARRICADA and NUEVO DIARIO. Worse yet, information that has already been published in BARRICADA and NUEVO DIARIO, which are the progovernment newspapers, is censored in BARRICADA [as heard] that same day.

[Castillo] Here in El Salvador we have heard that Nicaragua's food situation is critical and that, economically, Nicaragua has been destroyed. What could you tell us about this?

[Chamorro] Concerning that, I would refer you to those who are better informed about the economic situation. There is a shortage of basic products. Food staples are distributed by organizations supporting the Sandinist Front, like the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committee] through ration cards. I even have my [words indistinct]. Sometimes it is difficult to ascertain items, perhaps because insufficient quantities arrived in the first place. In addition, there is always a shortage of certain food products. Clearly, the economic situation is very difficult. However, I would rather not describe it as either critical or noncritical. I don't like to use controversial epithets or adjectives.

[Castillo] What is the military situation in Nicaragua? We hear that Nicaragua is very strong militarily. Is it strong owing to Cuba's help?

[Chamorro] I do not know about the military situation because, since I am neither a member of the Army nor a government spokesman, I am not familiar with this situation. We don't have war correspondents within the FSLN to investigate the military situation. All we know is what the government tells us concerning the military situation. The government says that the military situation is critical, that we are about to be invaded, and that the invaders will seize the northeastern zone of Nicaragua, where Puerto Cabezas is located -- they have even mentioned the place -- to set up a provisional government and then will request CONDECA's [Central American Defense Council] aid. This is what the government has been saying recently. We do not have independent information. We cannot send a correspondent there to look around and report on what he sees. All I can do is repeat what our government says.

MINISTRY REPORTS DEPARTURE OF U.S. WARSHIPS

PA301627 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1607 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Managua, 30 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- The U.S. warships that for 2 days had been staging "suspicious maneuvers" in Nicaraguan waters have left the western coasts of this country "bound for an unknown destination," the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported today.

The ships, whose number was not determined, came within 13 miles of the coast, off the Velero Beach resort on the Pacific Ocean, according to the Foreign Ministry charge.

The Sandinist authorities considered the presence of the warships and the activity of the aircraft flying in Nicaragua's airspace as "a most dangerous provocation against Nicaragua."

The Managua Foreign Ministry charged that U.S. combat aircraft that took off from the ships conducting maneuvers "in Nicaraguan waters" had made "suspicious flights" over strategic points such as the Nicaragua and Puerto Sandino electric plants.

HAVANA NOTES COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ATTACKS

FL230237 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1919 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] Nicaragua has stated that counterrevolutionary forces, coming from Honduras, have attacked two border posts in the past 48 hours, according to a press dispatch from Managua.

In a note to Edgardo Paz Barnica, Honduran minister of foreign affairs, the Nicaraguan foreign minister stated that a group of Somozist mercenaries supported by Honduran Army troops fired on the (Minipuchi) border post. Last Sunday, former Somozist guardsmen fired from Honduran territory on the border post of Santo Tomas del Norte, Department of Chinandega. It must be pointed out that this type of criminal activity is in agreement with White House plans to foment a conflict of greater size between our two countries, the Nicaraguan ministry's note warned.

HAVANA NOTES ORTEGA ON CONTADORA, U.S.

FL261450 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta of Nicaragua, has stated that all the steps that the United States has taken since the Contadora Group came into existence have been totally contrary to the efforts of that group. The Sandinist leader said all U.S. actions are directed at sabotaging the measures of the Contadora Group and that they always follow the line of a military solution.

He stipulated that while Nicaragua and the Contadora Group have been making efforts for peace and political solutions to the complex problems of Central America, showing good sense and flexibility, the United States is making efforts toward war. Ortega said that Reagan, in response to calls to hold talks, sent warships to Central America, invaded Honduras with U.S. soldiers, is constructing military bases there, and is continuing aggression against Nicaragua.

HAVANA: CIA 'UPSET' WITH COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES

PA300401 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] The CIA has warned Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries that they must either win significant victories before February 1984 or face a reassessment of U.S. support. Citing U.S. congressional sources, THE MIAMI HERALD said that while this reassessment would not necessarily imply a cut in funds from the CIA, it might mean changes in the counterrevolutionaries' leadership.

The newspaper added that the CIA is particularly upset with the poor performance of the self-styled Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], which has bases in Honduras and is led by former Somozist guardsmen. To date, the FDN has only been able to blow up some Nicaraguan bridges and port installations and to damage some crops. It has done nothing to seriously shake up or damage the Sandinist government, a congressional source told THE MIAMI HERALD.

The dramatic victories that the CIA is demanding from the counterrevolutionaries include the conquest of a portion of Nicaraguan territory, upon which they can create a provisional government and then openly seek military aid from the United States and Central American regimes.

HAVANA ON SOVIET WHEAT DONATION TO GOVERNMENT

FL231314 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] At a ceremony held in the port city of Corinto, Soviet Ambassador German Shlyapnikov presented a donation of 7,000 metric tons of wheat to the Nicaraguan Government. This raises to 40,000 metric tons the amount donated so far by the Soviet Union.

CASTRO LETTER ON KIDNAPPING OF BETANCUR'S BROTHER

PA301534 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Nov 83 pp 1-A, 7-A

[Letter sent by Cuban President Fidel Castro to Colombian President Belisario Betancur; no date given]

[Text] Dear Mr President: We are moved by the report on the kidnapping of your brother Jaime. We remember the interest you showed a few days ago in contributing to the return to our fatherland of the Cuban collaborators who were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner during the unequal but heroic battle against the forces that invaded Grenada. We feel this action against your brother and you who, as president, have shown humanitarian feelings and an unequivocal interest in peace both inside and outside Colombia is absolutely unjustifiable from any standpoint. If those who committed this act were acting on behalf of some political idea, we hope they will realize that this step entails a grave mistake and irreversible damage to the cause they pretend to be defending.

I have always felt, as a revolutionary, that ethics are an unrenounceable principle without which even the most just and pure political cause can be irreversibly damaged and tarnished. In our opinion, this action against your brother is not ethical, political, or just by any standards. Hurting him physically or killing him would be a crime that could never be committed by those who truly act according to revolutionary ideas.

I fervently hope that those who are holding your brother, if they are truly motivated by political reasons and feel they are acting as revolutionaries, will respond to this reasoning and preserve Jaime's physical well-being and release him immediately.

Sincerely yours, Fidel Castro

'OUR AMERICA' ON 'CORROSION' IN SALVADORAN REGIME

PA301404 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 29 Nov 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The political corrosion of the Salvadoran military regime cannot be stopped. Contradictions in top government echelons are becoming increasingly evident. Regardless of how the regime tries to explain it, the roots of this situation lie in the victories of revolutionary forces led by the FMLN.

The approval of March 1984 as the date for the elections is the response of the Alvaro Magana regime to coup threats that have been rumored in the past few weeks. However, the regime's political spheres have been unable to complete the text of the so-called political constitution because of some discrepancies in its articles.

Ambitions for power are out in the open to such an extent that it is increasingly difficult for the regime to reach agreement. The unexpected announcement of a coalition made up of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, the Christian Democratic Party, and the Authentic Institutional Party immediately prompted a vigorous protest from the regime's minority parties.

The most tangible evidence of the failure of Magana's maneuvers is reflected in remarks made by San Salvador Archbishop Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas who, when he learned about the new election date, said that they will not solve the general crisis in the country. The rejection of a dialogue with the Salvadoran guerrilla forces and the attempt to ignore the political force the revolutionaries represent in this country have only led the regime to become mired in new contradictions and greater isolation.

In the social sphere, the Salvadoran military authorities have not resolved the strike of almost 1,000 employees of the National Administration of Telecommunications and its branches throughout the country. This strike comes on top of that declared by bank workers.

In addition, the Salvadoran regime is trying to prevent the investigation of the massacre of approximately 200 peasants, including 47 children in Copapayo, Cabanas Department. Radio Farabundo Marti has charged that this mass murder was committed in mid-November by Atlacatl troops trained by U.S. advisers. These troops gathered Copapayo peasants and machinegunned them indiscriminately. Some peasants who were able to escape from the criminal siege were still hit by bullets when they tried to cross Suchitlan Lake.

To this Salvadoran panorama, we must add still another scene: The Honduras troops' attack on Salvadoran towns. The attack on Tierra Agria claimed the life of a peasant. This action confirms the FMLN General Command charge that the U.S. plans to carry out a military invasion of El Salvador.

In the military sphere, the regime is on the defensive in almost every department in the country and is looking for a pretext to allow direct U.S. military intervention. Such an action would only result in a lessening of U.S. prestige and further deteriorate the international situation, because the conflict would spread in the region.

SOSA SIGNS ECONOMIC PROTOCOL WITH RSFSR

FL301919 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] An important Economic Cooperation Protocol in the domestic trade and local industries sectors has been signed by Cuba and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], thus concluding the negotiations started by the two countries on 20 November. The protocol was signed by Manuel Vila Sosa and (Bekou Sinsky), ministers of their respective sectors in Cuba and the RSFSR.

The protocol contains important agreements that include the possibility of starting to cooperate in the production of consumer goods; of supplying technological equipment for Cuba's local industries; of Soviet technical advice for installing, managing and organizing the technological processes of Cuba's local industry; and of the training of Cuban personnel in the RSFSR. The protocol also includes the possibility of starting joint production of consumer goods through the exchange of goods between the two ministries.

USSR, BULGARIAN, DPRK HEALTH MINISTERS ARRIVE

FL301945 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Delegations from the USSR, Bulgaria, and the DPRK arrived in our capital today to participate in the 24th conference of public health ministers, which will begin tomorrow. Sergey P. Burenkov, USSR minister of health, and (Kristan Malov) and (Kim Go-pil), respectively, vice ministers of Bulgaria and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, were received at Jose Marti International Airport by Sergio del Valle, Politburo member and minister of public health.

ZIONIST INTERFERENCE IN L.A. SYMPOSIUM CLOSES

FL301635 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] The International Symposium on Zionist Interference in Latin America closed after meeting for 2 days at the Palace of Conventions under the auspices of the Center for African and Middle Eastern Studies, CEAMO.

In his brief remarks, CEAMO Director Armando Entralgo stressed the support received from the attending countries and expressed gratitude for the suggestions and reports provided by important personages who could not attend.

JESUS MONTANE RECEIVES VIETNAMESE DECORATION

FL301313 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Jesus Montane, alternate member of the party Politburo, has received the Order of Friendship conferred by the Council of State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This honorable decoration was presented to him by the ambassador from this brother country, Hoang Luong, who stated that, as chief of the General Department of Foreign Relations of the party, Montane has faithfully and correctly interpreted the principles of Marxism-Leninism and the clear proletarian internationalism of the Communist Party and its first secretary, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

27TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANTIAGO UPRISING MARKED

FL301959 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The ceremony marking the 27th anniversary of the armed uprising of Santiago, Cuba, that supported the Granma expeditionary force was held on the squad grounds of the old Moncada Barracks. Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the Politburo; Vilma Espin, alternate Politburo member; Jaime Crombet, member of the Central Committee; and Jose Ramon Balaguer, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party in that province, presided over the ceremony.

The 690th Regiment of Militias of the Territorial Troops received its combat banner during the ceremony.

DOMINICA

LEFTIST GROUP WANTS U.S. TROOPS OUT OF GRENADA

FL301229 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] The Dominica Liberation Movement, a leftist group, has issued a statement calling for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Grenada, saying their presence threatens to transform the Caribbean into a theater of war, rather than a zone of peace.

The group's statement said it agrees with the idea that withdrawal of American troops should be followed by the establishment of a Commonwealth force.

JAMAICA

JLP, RUNNING UNOPPOSED, TO WIN ELECTIONS

FL301131 Bridgetown CANA in English 0029 GMT 30 Nov 83

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 29, CANA -- The incumbent Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) of Prime Minister Edward Seaga was today returned to power in advance of general elections set for December 15 when at least two thirds of its candidates for the 60 seats were nominated unopposed. Election officials said by late afternoon that they had received reports from 51 constituencies and the JLP had been opposed in only five.

The main opposition People's National Party (PNP) is boycotting the election because promised electoral reforms, including anti-fraud procedures and an updated voters list, had not been fully implemented.

But Seaga today scoffed at the PNP position and said the opposition party was in fact fearful of losing to the JLP. "The records must show that the PNP was not ready and despite the smokescreen, in plain language what they were afraid of was a beating," he told supporters after filing nomination papers in the West Kingston constituency he has represented for more than 20 years.

In the last Parliament, the JLP held (?51 seats and the PNP 9 seats). Seaga called elections last Friday, two years early and only two days after a massive devaluation of the Jamaica dollar under a new loan arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In the constituencies where there was more than one candidate nominated, necessitating a turnout of voters in two weeks time, three were independents, with one each from the little known Republican Party and the Christian Conscience Movement (CCM).

In Kingston West Central, Republican V.G. Smith was up against JLP's Derrick Smith; in St Andrew West Central, independent Clive Smith is challenging Education Minister Dr Mavis Gilmour; in Western St Mary, the CCM's John Farrel is opposing Miss H.M. Knight.

In St James, independent Maitland Dawkins is running against Geoffrey Roache, while another independent, William Lindsay, is opposing Buxton Cooke in Western Westmoreland.

Anticipating his victory today, Seaga said a JLP government would create "people-based organisations and the people will be provided with the type of representation which the PNP would never be capable of."

PNP leader Michael Manley has accused Seaga of presiding over a fraudulent election and said 150,000 of the voters who had turned 18 since 1980 were disenfranchised, while a further 100,000 people on the voters list had either died or had emigrated since the last election three years ago.

The PNP had said it would today begin releasing the names of 60 people who will be its official constituency representatives "until such time as an election is properly called."

The PNP ignored a number of pleas today to reconsider its decision to boycott the poll. The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) said the PNP "would deny the right to vote to the entire electorate -- a denial that poses a threat to our democratic traditions."

Jamaica Baptist Union President Rev Sam Reid said the PNP took a principled stand, but "a monopoly government by voluntary default is an undesirable thing."

In a front-page editorial today, the island's only morning daily, THE GLEANER, said the PNP would contest the election "in the national interest."

Seaga had called the snap poll citing PNP calls for his resignation as finance minister over his handling of the economy the day after the devaluation. He said it had created a crisis of confidence in the government in addition, potential investors were uncertain about the timing of an election.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOYCOTTS CUBAN TRADE MISSION

FL241854 Bridgetown CANA in English 1700 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Nov 24, CANA -- The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce has boycotted ceremonies for a visiting Cuban trade mission in an apparent protest against Cuba's role in the recent Grenada political crisis. "We thought the timing of the visit here was inappropriate," chamber President John Martin told CANA.

He said the chamber had received invitations to attend an opening meeting yesterday between government officials and the Cuban mission headed by Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, as well as a luncheon hosted by Trade Minister Desmond Cartey. "My organisation's executive felt it was too close to recent events in Grenada for us to get involved," Martin said.

Last month's American-led invasion force unearthed Russian-made weapons and ammunition supplied to Grenada, and Washington charged that Cuba planned to turn the Caribbean island into a base for exporting revolution to the region, a charge Havana denied. Armed Cuban workers fiercely resisted the invasion and 24 of them were killed.

The other major business organisation here, the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association, attended the meeting and its president, Arthur Loc Jac, was listed as a member of the government team.

Martin said, however, that there was a general willingness on the part of local businessmen to trade with Cuba in spite of the recent events. "...Russia trades with the United States (and) ... trade must go on despite political differences," he said.

ECUADOR

BREAKDOWN AT REFINERY LEADS TO BARTERING OF OIL

PA301644 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Ecuador will barter oil for gasoline because of a lack of local gasoline production. This is due to the breakdown of a catalytic cracking unit at the Esmeraldas Province state refinery.

Through Ministerial Decree No 1988 of 25 November, the natural resources minister has authorized the CEPE [Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation] general manager to grant (Seam Oil Trading, Inc) the right to barter 198,026 barrels of Oriente oil for gasoline at the rate of 1.65 barrels of oil for every barrel of gasoline. The oil will be delivered to Corpus Christi in the United States, and the bartered gasoline will be delivered to the Balao base in Ecuador. Oil will be dispatched aboard the tanker "Napo." The authorization has been based on the fact that this corporation submitted the lowest and most favorable bid.

GUYANA

TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH DOMINICA CANCELLED

FL301221 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] The Government of Guyana has cancelled two trade agreements with Dominica, and government sources in Georgetown say this was in retaliation for Dominica's support of the U.S. intervention in Grenada.

Guyanese officials cancelled a shipment of 250 tons of rice consigned to Dominica and scrapped an agreement under which Dominica supplied soap to Guyana.

PANAMA

ARRIVAL OF FDN LEADER, U.S. ENVOY STONE NOTED

PA010403 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0304 GMT 1 Dec 83

[Text] Panama City, 30 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), arrived in Panama City tonight from Venezuela.

Calero Portocarrero arrived at the Omar Torrijos Herrera Airport a few minutes before Richard Stone, U.S. special envoy for Central America. Calero told ACAN-EFE that the purpose of his visit to Caracas was to observe preparations for the 4 December elections.

The leader of the anti-Sandinist group fighting in northern Nicaragua said that the FDN is willing to coordinate its efforts to overthrow the current Managua government with other anti-Sandinist groups. Calero added that although he has not met recently with the leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), he has met with Alfonso Robelo on various occasions.

According to Calero, his stay in Panama has no relation with Richard Stone's visit, but he said he would try to meet with Ronald Reagan's envoy.

Calero said that the FDN has some 8,000 armed men "ready for war," most of them in the Department of Jinotega, in northern Nicaragua.